

DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 7)

“...about the Laws of the Harvest”

INTRO: Deception comes from many sources (Satan, world, self) It is real and dangerous. We are lied to regularly and when we believe those lies we find ourselves in real trouble. Scripture alerts us to several areas to avoid deception: salvation, goodness of God, obedience, and embracing God's view of how valuable we are to Him (Gal. 6:3-6). We'll continue in Gal. 6.

TODAY: Don't be deceived about the Laws of the Harvest (Gal. 6:7-9). “Don't be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap” (v.7). This basic principle is found throughout Scripture.

God has established built-in, absolute and immutable laws in the universe He created. These cannot be violated without consequence. Some apply to the **natural and physical** world (Ex: law of gravity when drop bottle). Also, laws applying to the **moral and spiritual** world. Salvation is only by grace apart from works (Galatians; Eph. 2:8-9). In Gal. 6:7 is the law of the harvest: “...whatever one sows, that will he also reap” (irrefutable, unchangeable, consequential). Don't be deceived in thinking you'll be the exception to the law – chickens always come home to roost! Always works, never bypassed. You can't mock God's law of the Harvest, shake your fist in His face, and think you'll get away with it. Let's look at the Laws of the Harvest.

I. WE REAP WHAT WE SOW (vv.7-8).

A. (v.7) We harvest what we plant. Like begets like. Ex: plant corn, reap corn, etc. Also financially true... Also true morally and spiritually – reaping follows sowing (Num. 32:23; Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7; Pro. 11:18; 22:8-9; Isa. 3:11; 59:12; Rom. 2:9).

B. (v.8) Present choices have future consequences. If we sow (plant) in the flesh, we will reap corruption (Gal. 5:17; 19-21). Conversely, if we plant Spirit, we reap eternal life – quality of life under rule of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 22-25).

II. WE REAP LATER THAN WE SOW (v.9)

The harvest doesn't come in quickly (Jam. 5:7). It requires much patience as the farmer waits. Instant gratification rules us. So, meanwhile, “don't grow weary in well doing” (2 Thess. 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:58). “Doing good” is looking for not waiting for the opportunity to do good to all (not just Christians). We “shall” reap a future and later reward.

III. WE REAP MORE THAN WE SOW (Hosea 8:7a; 2 Cor. 9:6)

A single seed brings a great harvest (ex: Sow one kernel of corn to get one stalk of about 4 cobs and about 200 kernels on each cob. You reap 800 kernels by sowing one small kernel! Similarly, a single act of acting on the flesh produces effects greater than the act itself. **ILLUS:** life of David... Note, farmers harvest once a year. We can be harvesting spiritual blessings all the time!

IV. WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST HARVEST BUT YOU CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE'S HARVEST BY PLANTING AND SOWING THE RIGHT SEED TODAY. Share blessings to reap blessings. Making better choices reaps better consequences!

CONC: Don't be deceived by the Laws of the Harvest. They always play out – for difficult or for blessing. Determined by the choices we sow.